

Virginia Latino Advisory Commission (VLAC) public meeting

August 6, 2004

2pm – 5pm

**VLAC meeting will take place at the
Virginia Foundation for the Humanities
Main Conference Room
145 Ednam Drive (Boar's Head Complex)
Charlottesville, Virginia**

Commissioners & Ex-officio members present:

Pablo Davis
Dannah Card
Cecelia Espenosa
Indira Moran
Leni Gonzalez
Lou Arnatt
Maricel Quintana-Baker
Julia Torres Barden
Jenifer Nalli
Michel Zajur
Jorge Figueredo
Gloria Rodriguez
Veronica Donahue
Maribel Ramos
Estephan Nieto
Tanya Gonzalez
Mary Littreal
Beatriz Amberman

Public:

Mark Cheatham, Lt. Governor's Office Intern

Absent:

Ricardo Cabellos
Andres Tobar
Philip Vasquez
Chuck Mills
Ricardo Castaneda
Walter Tejada
Craig Schwartz
George Crespo

M. Ramos – start off with review of minuted
Minutes approved with changes
Any announcements?

I.Moran – Next meeting on September 10th at the Ferlazzo Building in Prince William County, 2-4pm and from 4-6pm the Public Forum will take place

L.Arnatt – congratulate Indira Moran for being appointed to the Board of Medical Assistance Services. There is a Vacancy in the Milk Commission

J. Nalli – Vicki Fisher, Mental Health Association of VA, looking for Hispanic Representation, 1 Mental Health Counselor in the State

I. Moran – does the candidate need to meet any specific requirements?

M. Zajur – Latino Businesses in the area, Phoenix system – notify them of opportunities in the NOVA office/ Luncheon the 19th in Richmond – Hector Barreto and George Allen/ Dialogue session/ Kings Dominion on August 22nd Latino Day/ Vendor at the Que Pasa Festival – September 18th

G. Rodriguez - 4th Annual Latino Festival – September 28th/ Will be leaving Norfolk State and going to California/ brought a magazine for the Governor

T. Gonzalez – New position with the City of Richmond

J. Figueredo – position open with the Hispanic Committee of VA

B. Amberman – August 7th Art Center of VA event 11-7pm/ September 18th Heritage Celebration at Hampton Roads/ In communication with Instituto de Mexico (16th Street in Washington DC) Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera will be on display until the end of this month. August 14th 6-9pm a special day for VLAC members at the Instituto de Mexico (guided tour)

M. Quintana –Baker - Working w/ Museum of Fine Arts of Latin American Arts will take place this fall

P. Davis – format for the Final Report

C. Espenoza – set up another Sub- Committee on reconciliation of documents
Share addition to Committee chairs by August 13th

P. Davis – Deadline for submission of documents Friday, August 20th as a final date for submission

B. Amberman – chairs will be responsible for getting their information to Maribel

C. Espenoza & Maricel Quintana-Baker & Walter – a subcommittee for reconciliation of documents

L. Arnatt – format will go to each Committee report by August 9th

L. Gonzalez – Adopt the format of the Asian Advisory Board Report

E. Nieto – who will determine the length of each committee's report?

P. Davis – need to determine a maximum # of pages for report

L. Gonzalez – need to follow format and we should not be limited to length

C. Espenosa – reconciliation committee will have report back by September 3rd to Commissioners for review/ September 8th (noon) deadline for comments

B. Amberman – by September 10th we will be voting on the Final Report at the next Commission meeting

L. Arnatt and P. Davis – will work on the Executive Summary on September 22nd due / Need comments Executive Summary back by September 24th (noon)/ September 28th Executive Summary released

C. Espenosa - cme728@earthlink.net

Hispanic Representation Committee Report

J. Torres Barden –sent out a survey to the Lt. Governor, Republican Party of VA, Kerry Doneley – Democratic Party of VA

Gave 3 sources by July 31st deadline / also sent letter ranking to Hispanic Caucus trying to get meeting with them/ Republic Party of VA are aware of survey request/ she called Lt Gov and Democratic Party/ Case Studies for example Rick Gonzalez and Julia Torres Barden

I.Moran – because it was a survey do you think they felt resistant to answer? Instead of written format?

M. Quintana-Baker – go directly to the office, and ask the office if this is ok.

J. Torres Barden – should not have to do this/ timed it appropriately knowing what events were present

Health Committee

T. Gonzalez – divided in two subcommittees & Pablo will take that and incorporate legal piece.

Business Committee

M. Zajur – talked about the last hearing in Arlington. It was videotaped. Walter will edit it so it can be shown on public access. Broke into labor subcommittee and were going to have a hearing on Aug. 30. Looked at best practices and had an opportunity at the SBA luncheon to talk about issues.

Education Committee

V. Donahue – are working on issues. One of the items is limited English proficiency. Not to just test students b/c they have a Spanish surname. Programs to recognize diversity. ESL programs – teacher student ratio needs to be smaller. Database – dept. of education has done a good job organizing the database. People in local and state level will have access to the database so they can request grants. Many school secretaries don't use students full names if they have long names b/c their computer will not take them. Child's name then doesn't match their public records elsewhere. Migrant education – Migrant workers bring \$300 million to Va. Migrant children have to be identified in public schools.

Identification Committee

B. Amberman – HB 570 – number of news articles and some members of the community are not very well-informed about this. Brochure put out in Spanish and English.

J. Figueredo – Virginia Scope has been formed. Press conference was held. Arlington, Fairfax, Fredericksburg, Va Beach and Falls Church came out with press releases on the way they were going to handle this. Raised the level of attention by some associations. They are being overwhelmed by people who are having trouble proving that they are legally present to the DMV.

V. Donahue - doesn't think the HB 570 and MOU issues should be in identification but rather should be discussed by the police and law enforcement committee.

J. Figueredo – need to look at the partnership that we have developed with these citizen groups and the local law enforcement offices.

Law Enforcement Committee

C. Espenosa – the adoption of HB 570 has created fear – we will talk about supporting facts, etc. The Governor should ensure that an education campaign is embarked upon to educate all agencies. Need to publish methods of implementation. Need to create a system so that citizens can make complaints if enforcement has been unfair in their eyes. Public education on HB 570. Statement of its limitations and no attempt to exceed its limitations.

E. Nieto – the Governor's office is already considering doing some kind of public information campaign about HB 570.

J. Figueredo -reiterate the importance to document cases of abuse

C. Espenosa – this law allegedly passed the state legislature b/c it was going to be aimed at gang members but that is not necessarily how it will be used. We must be aware of unintended consequences if we do not put in place some kind of monitoring.

J. Figueredo – need to make sure the gangs are not being dealt with as ethnic gangs.

C. Espenosa – disagrees. Says that can't be done. But need to say that there is only a small number of people in the Hispanic community who are part of gangs. Gangs will also be an issue addressed in her report.

L. Gonzalez – Identification cards that are not valid are being sold to the Hispanic community.

Health Issues Committee

T. Gonzalez – working on topics; made contact with the office of minority health. Attended the Governor's conference on the uninsured. Tanya passed out a two-page list of issues that they are focusing on. Would a recommendation, be to have certification of interpreters in the health care industry. Need trained interpreters first – before you require certification.

I. Moran – saw that there was a course for interpreters in Cape Cod. Why reinvent the wheel. Maybe we need to explore that.

J. Figueredo – people that are working who happen to be bilingual and bicultural – they have their own 40 hour week jobs – they are taking their own time to interpret in their

T. Gonzalez – says that issue is addressed in her interpretation committee.

C. Espenosa – shall we have footnotes and attachments in the report?

V. Donahue – can the executive summary be translated in to Spanish?

P. Davis – yes I assume that that will be no problem.

B. Amberman – how should the report be presented to the Gov.? Can the commission as a whole present it to them?

L. Arnatt – I will check to see how other commissions have presented their reports. Perhaps we can do it during Hispanic-Heritage month.

G. Rodriguez – talked about the literature that she put out for people to pick up.

P. Davis – illustrations pages included in the report? One or two visuals? He will send them out to us for consideration.